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NSC BRIEFING

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3 May 1955

TOKIO
FORMOSA STRAITS

I. No significant military action in past week.

- A. We believe we now have explanation of heavy increase in number of explosions (reported as artillery "ounds") during April at various points on Peiping Peninsula (northeast of Nantou).
- B. In past week these "ounds" averaged some 100 per day, highest count 344 (29 April).

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[redacted] reported explosions correspond roughly in location with roads and field fortifications under construction on peninsula.

II. We continue to believe Chicom unlikely to undertake major military operations while exploring possibility of negotiations with US.

- A. However, we recognise possibility of limited Chicom harassment of islands--conceivably including attacks on isolated islands like Fuchia--as part of pressure for negotiations.

III. India's Krishna Menon going to Peiping soon to try clarify Chicom position on negotiations.

- A. Menon has recently seemed both sympathetic to Peiping and emotionally disturbed. He may not accurately represent Chicom attitude.

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- B. No word yet on inquiries which British chargé
in Peking was instructed to make last week.

IV. Chinese public statements continue take hard line on sub-
stantive issues which any negotiations might discuss.

- A. Peking says no need for cease-fire, as US, China
not at war "at present."
- B. Says Formosa is "internal" question, implying
status of Formosa not negotiable.
- C. Says only "international" question is US "inter-
vention," implying only matter to negotiate is
withdrawal of US forces.
- D. If US forces withdrawn, Chinese envisage "peaceful
liberation" Formosa along lines of 1949 nonviolent
subversion many mainland areas.